

- Dramatic action should be **unified** which means that all elements of action should be related to the play's central purpose, and nothing would be irrelevant.
- Dramatic action should be **varied and complex** in the sequence of incidents.
- Dramatic action should engage and **maintain suspense and interest** which makes the play worthy of audience involvement.
- Dramatic action should be probable which means that all incidents must be **logical and consistent**.
- **Unity of action:** means that a single play of necessity has to depict a limited part of human behavior which the dramatist chooses to present. Since an imitation of an action has to be complete, and whole with a certain magnitude, drama must imitate one action in which the structural union of the parts becomes one.

*Unity of action could be examined by two ways:*

- **First:** if any one of the structural elements of the play is displaced or removed, the whole will be disjointed and disturbed.
- **Second:** when presence or absence of an element of the action makes no visible difference, then it is not an organic part of the action.

**The three aspects of Dramatic action which motivate external behavior:**

- 1-mental action: expresses **thoughts**.
- 2- Psychological action: reflects **feelings**.
- 3- Physical action: represents **deeds**.

**The Elements of drama according to Aristotle:**

- character, action, plot, ideas, language, music, spectacle.

**Aristotle's plot three stages:**

- Plot: is the overall structure of a play, and is examined in terms of its beginning, middle, and end.
- 1- **The beginning:** establishes the place, the occasion, the characters, the mood, and the level of reality or probability. It brings the plot to the point where the conflict becomes clear and it provides the necessary background information.
- 2- **The middle:** is composed of a series of complications. Complications arise from the discovery of new information, the unexpected opposition of certain characters, the unexpected necessity of choosing between different courses of actions. Complications serve to narrow the possibilities of action and to create suspense. The substance of most complications is discovery. The series of complications culminates in the crisis, or turning point of the action.
- 3- **The end:** is the final portion of the play, caged the resolution extends from the climax to the final curtain. It is usually brief; it serves to tie off the various elements of action and to answer the questions raised during the sequences of the play events.